Department of Health and Human Services - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

FOR SAMHSA USE ONLY FORM NUMBER

Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) Emergency Department Case Form

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Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) Emergency Department Report Selected Reporting Guidelines and Instructions

I. Reporting Guidelines

The following abbreviated guidelines and instructions highlight certain reporting items. Please refer to the detailed instructions found in the Instruction Manual for Emergency Departments for further information.

Complete a DAWN form for every patient treated in the emergency department for a condition that was induced by or related to their ingestion or use of a drug. The relationship of drug use to the ED visit must be substantiated by the medical record (presenting complaint, assessment, and/or diagnosis). NOTE: Drug use includes appropriate or inappropriate use of legal or illegal drugs.

Rely on information documented in the chart/record. Do not make any assumptions.

II. Abbreviated Instructions for Completing Selected Items

Item 11. Route of Administration

Using only the information available in the patient's chart, indicate how the drug was used/ingested. **Do not make any assumptions about how the drug was administered.** The response categories are:

- 1. **Oral** Substance was swallowed.
- 2. Injected Substance was administered via needle.
- Inhaled/sniffed/snorted Substance, regardless of form (gas, powder, etc.) was aspirated (taken into the respiratory system) through the nose or mouth.
- 4. Smoked Substance was smoked (includes freebase).
- 5. Other All other routes of administration.
- Not documented To be used whenever the route of administration is not documented in the patient's chart.

Item 12. Type of Case

There are eight types of reportable cases. Use the following decision rules, in the following order, to determine how a case should be coded. Select the first category that applies:

- Does the chart indicate that the patient attempted to commit suicide by a drug overdose? If yes, the case is a **Suicide** attempt. If no, go to #2.
- Does the chart indicate that the patient is seeking a referral to detox or drug treatment, or that they are requesting assistance with their drug problem? If yes, the case is **Seeking detox**. If no, go to #3.
- 3. Is the patient under age 21, and is alcohol the only substance documented in the record? If yes, the case is **Alcohol only** (age < 21). If no, go to #4.

(continued next column)

- 4. Does the chart indicate that the patient was (a) taking a prescription or over-the-counter drug or dietary supplement as prescribed/labeled and (b) had an allergic reaction, adverse reaction, drug interaction, or drug toxicity? If yes, that case is an Adverse reaction. If no, go to #5.
- 5. Does the chart indicate that the patient took more than the prescribed/labeled amount of a prescription or over-the-counter drug or dietary supplement? For example, the patient tried to make up for a missed dose, forgot they had taken a dose, or treated symptoms that did not subside with the recommended dose. If yes, the case is an **Overmedication**. If no, go to #6.
- 6. Does the chart indicate a confirmed or suspected incident in which the patient was deliberately poisoned with drugs by another person? (This includes cases with known assailants as well as product tampering.) If yes, the case is **Malicious poisoning**. Otherwise, go to #7.
- 7. Does the chart indicate that the patient took the drug(s) accidentally or unknowingly? If yes, the case is **Accidental ingestion**. If no, go to #8.
- 8. Code as **Other** all cases that do not fit into categories 1-7 above. This final category will include all ED visits related to recreational use, drug abuse, drug dependence, withdrawal, and any misuse that cannot be classified above.

Item 14. Disposition

Select the <u>one</u> item that best represents the patient's disposition from the emergency department, based on documentation in the chart. The response categories are:

Treated and released – if the patient was discharged from this ED and was not admitted to this hospital or transferred elsewhere, indicate whether the patient was discharged home, released to police/jail, or referred to detox/treatment. If the patient was discharged home and referred to detox/treatment, mark only referred to detox/treatment.

Admitted to this hospital – if the patient was admitted to this hospital, choose the location that best represents the unit to which they were admitted: ICU/Critical care, Surgery, Chemical dependency/detox, Psychiatric unit, or Other inpatient unit.

Other disposition – if none of the preceding categories apply, select from among the following:

- Transferred the patient was transferred to another health care facility.
- Left against medical advice the available documentation indicates that the patient left against the advice of ED staff.
- **Died** the patient died after arriving in the ED but before being discharged, admitted, or transferred.
- Other the discharge status is documented in the chart but does not fit into any of the preceding categories.
- Not documented there is no information in the chart about the patient's disposition.

DAWN is operated by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, as required in Section 505 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290aa-4). DAWN is used to monitor trends in the adverse health consequences associated with drug use. Section 501(n) of the Public Health Service Act prohibits SAMHSA from using or disclosing DAWN data for any purpose other than that for which they were collected.

Public reporting burden for DAWN emergency departments is estimated at 12 minutes per case. This includes time for reviewing ED charts and completing case report and transmittal forms. Send comments regarding burden to SAMHSA Reports Clearance Officer, Paperwork Reduction Project 0930-0078, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rm 16-105, Rockville MD 20857. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB control number for this project is 0930-0078.